

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CASTRO ASSAILS US AND CHINA

1. SUMMARY: FIDEL CASTRO'S JULY 26 SPEECH ESCALATED CRITICISM OF US, INTER ALIA BY INVOKING NAME OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT FOR FIRST TIME. CASTRO'S ASSAULT ON US POLICY CENTERED ON AMERICAN ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND US QUESTIONING OF CUBAN ROLE IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. CUBAN LEADER WAS EVEN MORE VIOLENT IN HIS CRITICISM OF CHINA - TYING HIS ATTACK TO CHINESE PRESSURES ON VIETNAM AND PEKING'S ANTI-CUBAN ACTIVITIES. ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOLLOW IN SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. CASTRO'S SPEECH, IN FRONT OF MONCADA BARRACKS, SANTIAGO DE CUBA - SITE OF CUBAN LEADER'S ABORTED ASSAULT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO - WAS MILITANT DEFENSE OF CUBAN ECONOMIC-SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, MILITARY INTERVENTION ABROAD, AND UNWILLINGNESS TO BEND TO FOREIGN PRESSURE. WHILE EMPHATIC ABOUT CUBA'S PUTATIVE NON-ALIGNMENT (NON-MEMBERSHIP IN MILITARY BLOCS") AND NATIONAL ROOTS OF REVOLUTION, CASTRO

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WAS CAREFUL TO PUT CUBAN EXPERIENCE IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL MARXIST MOVEMENT AND TO INVOKE APPROPRIATE MARXIST-LENINIST SYMBOLS AND SOVIET CATCH PHRASES. CASTRO'S SENSE OF DEFENSIVENESS AND PERCEIVED NEED FOR SELF-JUSTIFICATION WAS APPARENT THROUGHOUT - AND HIS VEHEMENCE PARTICULARLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS ON CHINA MAY REVEAL A SENSE THAT MOSCOW MUST BE REASSURED, AT THE SAME TIME THAT WEST AND INCREASINGLY CRITICAL MODERATE NON-

ALIGNED ARE LAMBASTED.

3. FOR FIRST TIME, CASTRO REFERRED TO PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY IN MANNER WHICH, WHILE NOT DIRECTLY DISPARAGING, WAS DESIGNED TO CAST DISCREDIT. HE SARCASTICALLY CALLED ON PRESIDENT, AS PART OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, TO USE HIS INFLUENCE ON "INTIMATE ALLIES" SUCH AS NICARAGUA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, IRAN, SOUTH KOREA ET CETERA, TO STOP TORTURES AND DISAPPEARANCES OF "FIGHTERS FOR DEMOCRACY". HE ALSO SUGGESTED, AS REGARDS DOMESTIC US SITUATION, THAT PRESIDENT FREE LOLITA LEBRON AND OTHER PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS, WILMINGTON 10, AND THOUSANDS OF BLACK PRISONERS HELD BECAUSE OF DISCRIMINATION AND POVERTY. (COMMENT: CASTRO' DENUNCIATION OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE EXTENSIVE THAN USUAL, AND MAY REFLECT FALLOUT FROM SHCHARANSKIY AFFAIR AS WELL AS MORE PARTICULAR CUBAN CONCERNS. NOVEL USE OF PRESIDENT'S NAME IN UNFAVORABLE CONTEXT, RATHER THAN RELIANCE, AS BEFORE, ON DENUNCIATIONS OF DR. BRZEZINSKI, CIA, OR PENTAGON, APPEARS TO SIGNAL ESCALATION, ALBEIT MEASURED, OF CUBAN CRITICISM OF US - PLUS SENSE OF PESSIMISM ON PROSPECTS FOR NORMALIZATION.)

4. TURNING TO OTHER ISSUES, CASTRO CITED NEWS HE HAS JUST RECEIVED THAT US HAS MADE APPROACHES IN "15 NON-ALIGNED CAPITALS" IMPUGNING CUBAN ROLE IN NAM. CASTRO RHETORICALLY ASKED WHICH COUNTRIES ARE PLAYING WASHINGTON'S GAME AND WHY US IS SEEKING TO SABOTAGE 1979 HAVANA NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. HE DEFIANTLY POINTED OUT THAT NAM IS NOT OAS AND ATTACKED "TRAITORS, OPPORTUNISTS, NEO-COLONIZED, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VACILLATORS, AND SELL-OUTS" IN NAM WHO ARE LYING ABOUT CUBA. (COMMENT: CASTRO'S REMARKS ON NON-ALIGNED REFLECT ACUTE SENSITIVITY TO US ACTIVITIES IN THIS AREA, AS WELL AS EFFORT TO COW VACILLATING NAM MODERATES.)

5. ON OVERSEAS MILITARY INTERVENTION, CASTRO CHARACTERIZED CURRENT CUBAN ACTIVITIES AS NOT NEW FOR CUBAN POLICY, NOR FOR INTERNATIONAL MARXIST MOVEMENT (CITING SPANISH CIVIL WAR AND PARIS COMMUNE). HE TOOK USUAL LINE ON US OVERSEAS MILITARY PRESENCE AND HAD SPECIAL BARBS FOR US MILITARY PRESENCE IN CANAL ZONE AND GUANTANAMO. (AFTER SECOND MENTION IN SPEECH OF GUANTANAMO, AND US EMBARGO, AUDIENCE BROKE INTO CHANT "FUERA" - GET OUT.) BUT, ON MILITARY CRISIS AREAS, CASTRO'S LIST OF GROUPS TO BE OPPOSED WAS SURPRISINGLY MODERATE - FOR EXAMPLE, IT ONLY INCLUDED SOMALIS AND REACTIONARY ARABS (BUT NOT ERITREANS), IAN SMITH (BUT NOT MUZOREWA/SITHOLE), ANGOLA INVADERS (BUT NOT UNITA/FNLA.) AS INNOVATION, HOWEVER, CASTRO PLACED "OCCUPIERS" OF SAHARA (MOROCCO/MAURITANIA) ON "ENEMY LIST". CASTRO ALSO DEFENDED RIGHT RPT RIGHT OF PUERTO RICAN AND BELIZE PEOPLE TO INDEPENDENCE.

6. CASTRO'S GREATEST FURY, HOWEVER, WAS RESERVED FOR CHINA AND ITS "TRAITOR LEADERSHIP". HE SAID CHINESE ARE BEHIND CAMBODIAN PRES-

SURE ON VIETNAM AND CONDEMNED PEKING AGITATION ON HOA MINORITY IN VIETNAM. CASTRO SAID THAT RECENT PRC AIRCRAFT PENETRATIONS INTO VIETNAM ARE SIGN THAT OTHER "MILITARY PROVOCATIONS" ARE IN TRAIN. FOR THIS REASON, CASTRO CONTINUED, CUBA WILL GIVE "GREATEST SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT" TO VIETNAM AND WILL REACTIVATE COMMITTEES OF SOLIDARITY WITH HANOI. AT THIS POINT, DEFENSE MINISTER RAUL CASTRO GRASPED HANDS OF VISITING VIETNAMESE DIGNITARIES. (COMMENT: CASTRO HAS ALWAYS HAD SPECIAL AFFECTION FOR VIETNAM - A SMALLER STATE, LIKE CUBA, IN CONFRONTATION WITH POWERFUL US AND NOW CHINA. PRESUMABLY, HOWEVER, ANY CUBAN MILITARY OR CIVIL HELP TO VIETNAM WILL PRIMARILY BE ONLY OF SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE.)

7. CASTRO'S SHARP TONE ON CHINA WAS, APPARENTLY, AT LEAST PARTIALLY STIRRED BY REPUTED ENDORSEMENT BY PEKING LEADERSHIP OF US EMBARGO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND GUANTANAMO BASE AND CHINESE MEDIA ATTACKS ON CUBA. BUT SOVIET ANGLE WAS MADE EXPLICIT BY CASTRO INTERJECTION, IN MIDST OF HIS CHINESE REMARKS, OF STATEMENT OF CUBAN SENSE OF INDEBTEDNESS TO SOVIET UNION FOR ITS MANY YEARS OF COLLABORATION AND SPECIFICALLY FOR ITS ARMS SUPPLIES.

8. COMMENT: VIRULENCE OF CASTRO' SPEECH WAS NOT UNEXPECTED ON EVE OF HAVANA "ANTI- IMPERIALIST" WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL AND IN PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST AND REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS (ARAFAT, NKOMO) FROM ANY COUNTRIES. NONETHELESS, SHARPNESS OF COMMENTS ON US, INCLUDING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NAME, VIETNAMESE SOLIDARITY GESTURE, AND ADAMANCE ON FOREIGN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT GIVE US LITTLE CAUSE FOR ENCOURAGEMENT.

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